

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 9340 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA NICOSIA
THE HAGUE LONDON PARIS ROME OSLO NATO USUN USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST CINCUSNAVEUR CINCUSAFAE COMSIXTHFLT DIA
03 SEP QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 9340

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
SUBJECT: SISMIC OPERATIONS IN THE AEGEAN: GOG DEMARCHE

REF: ATHENS 9307 (DTG 021507Z SEP 76)(NOTAL)

1. CONFIRMING MY TELECON LATE LAST NIGHT WITH EUR/SE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TELEPHONED
WITH A GOG DEMARCHE CONCERNING THE SISMIC'S PLANNED
OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH IN THE AEGEAN. TZOUNIS
SAID HE WAS ACTING UNDER DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS (FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS
IS AWAY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN OSLO). HIS DEMARCHE
CONSISTED OF AN ORAL MESSAGE AS FOLLOWS:

A) DESPITE THE RECENT ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION
BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND, INDEED, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
ITS ADOPTION AND DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE GREEK AND
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TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WERE ENDEAVORING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS

CONCERNING THE AEGEAN PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEIR TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED IT WAS SENDING THE SISMIK FOR FURTHER OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH IN THE AEGEAN. MOREOVER, THE AREA IN WHICH THE RESEARCH IS SCHEDULED TO BE CONDUCTED HAS EXPANDED, BEING EVEN WEST OF CONCESSIONS AWARDED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN JULY 1974. ALSO, THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR SUCH RESEARCH HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO A PERIOD OF 25 DAYS.

B) SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE PLANNED OPERATIONS OF THE SISMIK CAN ONLY BE REGARDED BY THE GOG AS "AN INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION".

C) THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT, REPEAT NOT "FACILITATE THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE" BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

D) SUCH "PROVOCATIONS" BY TURKEY "CANNOT CONTINUE TO GO UNCHECKED".

2. I ASKED TZOUNIS WHAT STEPS OR ACTIONS, IF ANY, THE GOG WAS TAKING, AND HE SAID THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE GOG WANTED "THE FOUR" WHO HAD ASSISTED GREECE DURING THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER "TO BE INFORMED". (AND, PRESUMABLY, HE WAS ALSO CONTACTING THE BRITISH, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS);

B) THE GOG WAS ALSO INSTRUCTING ITS ACTING PERMREP IN NEW YORK TO INFORM THE SECURITY COUNCIL;

C) THE GOG WAS ALSO INSTRUCTING THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE GOT (ALTHOUGH TZOUNIS WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON WHAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE).

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, TZOUNIS SAID THAT GREECE WAS NOT REPEAT NO REQUESTING THE USG TO TAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY ACTION BUT MERELY WANTED TO KEEP US INFORMED AND THAT THE DEMARCHE WAS "IN THAT SPIRIT".

4. I EXPRESSED TO TZOUNIS OUR APPRECIATION AT BEING KEPT INFORMED AND SAID THAT WHILE I HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS I WANTED TO URGE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH THE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND TO ENCOURAGE THE MOST THOUGHTFUL,

PRUDENT AND MEASURED REACTION. I SAID THAT GREECE HAD AMPLE PEACEFUL AND LEGAL MEANS AVAILABLE TO PRESERVE ITS INTERESTS AND LEGAL POSITION, AND IN THIS WAY FRIENDS AND ALLIES WOULD HAVE BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY AND BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. TZOUNIS VOLUNTEERED THAT HE THOUGHT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REACTION THUS FAR COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS QUITE RESTRAINED.

5. TZOUNIS ADDED THAT THE SISMIC WAS REPORTED TO BE ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE GREEK ISLAND OF SAMOTHRACE AT 7:00 P.M. LAST EVENING, "JUST SKIRTING THE ISLAND'S WESTERN TERRITORIAL WATERS," AND IT APPEARED THAT THIS WAS THE "FIRST VIOLATION" BY THE SISMIC IN THIS NEW PHASE. KUBISCH UNQTE. ROBINSON

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